

REMARKS

Claims 18-24 and 26-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 18, 33 and 34 were amended in this response. Claim 25 was canceled, without prejudiced. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendment.

Claims 18-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Barker et al.* (US Patent 6,363,421). Applicants traverse the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Specifically, the cited art, alone or in combination, does not disclose “storing at least one class known in at least one service computer for the application object as an allomorph class in the data of the application object; using the allomorph class as an auxiliary identifier when the application program is processed; and processing the amended maintenance message, wherein the application object to be processed is processed as an object of the alternative class by an application program” as recited in claim 18 and similarly recited in claims 33 and 34.

Barker teaches a system and method for managing a telecommunication network based on the SNMP interface (see FIG. 3, col. 5, lines 44-47). Instead of creating object instances for all managed objects in the system, a single service object is created to provide services for a class of managed objects. Specific managed object instances and their attributes are referenced by use of a set of object class identifiers and attribute codes. The definition of these managed object class identifiers and attribute codes is part of the interface definition between all service objects and their clients (col. 14, lines 35-49). A specific instance of a managed object is referenced using its object identifier which consists of the object class code and an instance identifier. The object class code is a static enumeration or constant, and the instance identifier is an integer value (defined at run time based on configuration) that is unique to the object class. A specific instance of an application managed object is referenced by calling a lookup function in the application's service object to convert the AP network element instance identifier and application key into its associated instance ID. The combination of these two values in the object identifier uniquely identifies a specific managed object instance (col. 14, lines 50-67).

Barker teaches under the previously discussed configuration that when an object extension is needed, a separate version attribute needs to be created (see “Adding New Managed Objects”, col. 15-16). In contrast, the present claims recite an application object as an allomorph

class in the data of the application object; and using the allomorph class as an auxiliary identifier when the application program is processed. Using this configuration, particularly in an CMIP interface, the system does not have to learn new version attributes (class identifiers), but may use a class identifier of an allomorphic class. Application programs can thus deal with "old" objects (containing a class identifier) as well as "new" objects (containing an alternate class identifier) using an allomorphic attribute, such as one that can be derived from interfaces such as CMIP interfaces. This feature cannot be done under SNMP configurations, such as the one disclosed in Barker.

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submit that claims 18-24 and 26-34 are allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Commissioner is authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any additional fees associated with the submission of this Response. Please reference docket number 112740-320.

Respectfully submitted,

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